

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 20407

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, IEA
SUBJECT: IEA - CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BOARD

1. RAMPTON IS AWAY BUT IS EXPECTED BACK IN LONDON
LATE TODAY AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH HIM THEN,
IN WHICH CASE WE OF COURSE WILL REPORT FURTHER.
2. IN ABSENCE OF RAMPTON, WE SPOKE TO GILLIAN BROWN
WHO SAID THE BRITISH ARE STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER
DAVIGNON MIGHT NOT CARRY ON TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY
DESPITE HIS EC APPOINTMENT. MOREOVER, HIS VIEWS AS
OUTGOING CHAIRMAN ABOUT A SUCCESSOR MAY WELL CARRY
WEIGHT. THE UK THEREFORE HAS NOT REALLY FOCUSED ON
ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATES AS YET.
3. BROWN ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, HAVING HEARD THE NAMES
OF TOWE, ROHWEDDER, "SOME DUTCHMAN OR DANE", AND
RAMPTON WHO, SHE UNDERSTOOD, HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY US
SOURCES. BROWN SAID SHE HAS NEITHER AN IDEA WHETHER
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RAMPTON WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE JOB NOR ANY FIRM
VIEWS ON OTHER POSSIBLE CHOICES. SHE SIMPLY NOTED THAT
TOWE HAD MADE A COMPETENT CHAIRMAN ON OCCASION IN THE
PAST AND HAS A GOOD REPUTATION.

4. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW RAMPTON WOULD MAKE A COMPETENT

CHAIRMAN OF IEA BUT WE DOUBT WHETHER EITHER HIS PERSON-
ALITY OR HIS NATIONALITY HARBINGER DEDICATED AND
EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP. HE IS QUIETLY INTELLIGENT, HAS
A GIFT FOR ORGANIZATION AND RUNS A GOOD MEETING, BUT HE
TENDS TO PLAY HIS CARDS CLOSE TO THE CHEST AND TAKES
FEW IF ANY INITIATIVES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN THOROUGHLY
VETTED BY THE BUREAUCRACY AND, MORE IMPORTANT, HIS
MINISTERIAL "MASTERS". WE ALSO HAVE SOME DOUBT WHETHER
HE WOULD BE WILLING AND ABLE TO DEVOTE A VERY SUB-
STANTIAL PART OF HIS TIME TO CHAIRMANSHIP.

5. IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BRITAIN HAS
GOTTEN MUCH OF WHAT IT WANTS OUT OF IEA - AN EMERGENCY
SHARING SCHEME AND AN AGREEMENT ON MSP. AND BOTH ARE
FAST DIMINISHING IN IMPORTANCE TO THE UK AS INDIGENOUS
OIL PRODUCTION BEGINS TO SUPPLY A GROWING PERCENTAGE
OF DOMESTIC NEEDS AND THE OPEC DICTATED WORLD PRICE OF
OIL INSURES THE PROFITABILITY OF NORTH SEA OIL. BRITISH
INTEREST IN PRESSING REDUCED DEPENDENCY OBJECTIVES AND
DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES HAS BEEN LESS THAN
OVERWHELMING IN RECENT MONTHS AND THERE IS NO REASON
TO EXPECT MUCH CHANGE OF HEART ON THIS SCORE. AL-
THOUGH BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE OF COURSE TO SUPPORT IEA,
AS A MATTER OF POLITICAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE WEST IF
FOR NO OTHER REASON, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY A
BRITISH OFFICIAL SHOULD BE SELECTED TO BE OUT FRONT IN
THE GOVERNING BOARD.

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